



## 2027 Summer Research Project Template

Help us present your project in a way that connects with the right students. Thoughtful, engaging descriptions tend to attract stronger and more suitable applications. Thank you for putting a project forward - these programs rely on your contribution, and we couldn't do it without you.

| Section                                     | Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
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| <b>Project title</b>                        | Parenting under pressure: Understanding and improving support for families experiencing cumulative adversity                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>Hours &amp; delivery</b>                 | 20-25 hrs per week, 11 January - 19 February 2027. Scholar can work on campus or remotely, with flexibility regarding hours worked.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>About the project</b><br>(150–250 words) | <p>Families may experience multiple, interconnected adversities, including mental health conditions, problematic substance use, domestic and family violence, incarceration, relationship breakdown, poverty and housing insecurity. These pressures can affect parenting, child development and families' ability to find and use helpful support.</p> <p>This scholarship will contribute to a research program examining how cumulative adversity shapes parenting and child development over time, and what makes family support accessible, respectful and useful. The program combines longitudinal analysis of national Australian data with human-centred qualitative research involving parents and young people. It seeks to examine parenting strengths and protective factors, map families' experiences of seeking and receiving support, and co-develop priorities and design principles for policy and practice.</p> <p>The scholar will support the development and communication of the project's evidence base, conceptual framework, research design and planned outputs. This is an opportunity to contribute to an interdisciplinary and lived-experience-informed program spanning parenting and family science, developmental research, service access and human-centred design.</p> |
| <b>What you'll do</b><br>(100-150 words)    | <p>Tasks may include reviewing and synthesising recent literature on cumulative adversity, parenting, child development, help-seeking, service access and human-centred design; organising evidence and identifying gaps; and assisting with clear written summaries. The scholar may help develop project timelines, study and methods diagrams, and other tables or figures. They may also assist with reference management, citation checking, formatting, and reviewing application materials for clarity and consistency. Work will be undertaken collaboratively and under close guidance, with the precise mix of activities shaped by the project's stage and the scholar's interests and skills.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>What you'll learn</b><br>(100–150 words) | <p>The scholar will gain practical experience in literature searching, evidence synthesis, conceptual modelling and the development of a competitive research proposal. They will learn how research aims, questions, studies, methods, outputs and benefits are brought together into a coherent program, and how complex ideas can be communicated through concise writing, tables, figures and timelines. The placement will also build skills in assessing the quality and relevance of evidence, managing references, checking citations, and writing for both specialist and general audiences. Through regular guidance and feedback, the scholar will gain insight into longitudinal, qualitative and mixed-methods research, human-centred design, lived-experience involvement, and the planning of policy- and practice-relevant research.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |



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| <b>Project outcomes</b><br>(75–125 words)         | The scholar will contribute a set of materials supporting the research program and potential grant application. Depending on project needs, these may include an updated literature synthesis or evidence-gap summary, a refined conceptual model, a Gantt chart, project-alignment tables, study or methods figures, and an accurate and consistently formatted reference list. The scholar may also contribute to written sections and checks of clarity, feasibility and consistency across application materials. They will produce a brief report and oral presentation at the end of the placement.                                                                                            |
| <b>Who should apply?</b><br>(75–125 words)        | This project is open to applications from 3rd or 4th year psychology students and may also suit students in public health, social science, social work or a related area. Applicants should have strong academic writing and literature-searching skills, good attention to detail, and an interest in parenting, child and family wellbeing, adversity, service access or research design. Experience with a reference-management program such as EndNote, preparing research figures, or presenting complex information clearly would be useful but is not essential. Applicants should be able to work independently between regular supervisory meetings and respond constructively to feedback. |
| <b>Team &amp; supervision</b><br>(75–125 words)   | The project will be supervised by Dr Carys Chainey at the Parenting and Family Support Centre. The scholar will work directly with Dr Chainey and receive regular guidance and feedback, with opportunities to engage with relevant collaborators and researchers where useful. Scholars who wish to undertake the scholarship on campus will be situated at the Parenting and Family Support Centre and work alongside scholars, PhD students and academics from the Centre.                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>Additional opportunities</b><br>(optional)     | The scholar will gain insight into the development of a major competitive research proposal and may have opportunities to contribute to related academic or knowledge-translation outputs. They may also network with researchers working across parenting and family science, child development, adversity, service access and human-centred design. Contributions will be acknowledged in accordance with their nature and extent and relevant authorship and research-integrity requirements.                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>Additional requirements</b><br>(if applicable) | None                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Contact</b>                                    | Yes, students may contact the supervisor before applying.<br>Direct enquiries to: <a href="mailto:c.chainey@uq.edu.au">c.chainey@uq.edu.au</a>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |